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Letter dated 21 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the following statement on the Zengeza by-elections in Zimbabwe, issued on 15 April 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

04-33370 (E) 030504

Annex to the letter dated 21 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Zengeza by-elections in Zimbabwe, issued on 15 April 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

Declaration by the European Union in the wake of the Zengeza parliamentary by-elections

The European Union condemns the violence, intimidation and irregularities before and during the Zengeza parliamentary by-elections on 27 and 28 March 2004. The electoral environment cannot be deemed to have been free, fair or safe for the voters of Zengeza. The shooting incidents, which left one person dead and others wounded, are of special concern. The events in Zengeza set a worrying precedent for future elections, including the upcoming by-elections in Lupane in May 2004 and the planned March 2005 parliamentary elections.

The European Union calls on the Government of Zimbabwe to allow every political party and equal level of electoral freedom. The European Union emphasizes the importance of creating an electoral environment conducive to free and fair elections, in line with international standards such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum's Norms and Standards for Elections in the SADC Region. The European Union calls on all political parties to refrain from violence and intimidation before, during and after elections, and for the authorities to prevent violence, intimidation and irregularities.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.